

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
a plurality of symbol strips each having a plurality of symbols;
a plurality of annular bodies to which each of the symbol strips are annularly attached;
an LCD panel provided in front of the plurality of annular bodies and configured to electronically display an image concerning a game; and
at least one light source configured to illuminate the symbols from behind the symbols,
wherein the plurality of annular bodies are made transparent or semitransparent for transmitting light from the at least one light source in a direction of the LCD panel,

wherein each annular body includes a rim assembly and a ring part, the rim assembly having a radially-extending boss having a hole formed therethrough disposed centrally about an axis of rotation, a circular rim piece disposed radially apart from the boss and centrally encircling the axis of rotation at a first radial distance therefrom and a plurality of arms disposed angularly apart from one another and extending radially between and interconnecting the boss and the rim piece, the ring part having a circular configuration and centrally encircling the axis of rotation at a second radial distance being at least approximately equal to the first radial distance, and

wherein each symbol strip is fabricated from a stiff yet pliable material such that the symbol strip interconnects the rim piece and the ring part in an axially-disposed apart manner when opposing outer side edges of the symbol strip are attached to and between the rim piece and the ring part, the ring part forming an unobstructed circular opening into an empty cylindrical cavity defined by the rim assembly, the ring part and the symbol strip when interconnected together.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:
a plurality of symbol strips each having a plurality of symbols;
a plurality of annular bodies to which each of the symbol strips are annularly attached;
an LCD panel provided in front of the plurality of annular bodies and configured to electronically display an image concerning a game; and
a light source configured to illuminate the symbols from a slanting direction of a front of the symbols,
wherein the plurality of annular bodies are formed to reflect light from the light source in a direction of the LCD panel,
wherein each annular body includes a rim assembly and a ring part, the rim assembly having a radially-extending boss having a hole formed therethrough disposed centrally about an axis of rotation, a circular rim piece disposed radially apart from the boss and centrally encircling the axis of rotation at a first radial distance therefrom and a plurality of arms disposed angularly apart from one another and extending radially between and interconnecting the boss and the rim piece, the ring part having a circular configuration and centrally encircling the axis of rotation at a second radial distance being at least approximately equal to the first radial distance, and
wherein each symbol strip is fabricated from a stiff yet pliable material such that the symbol strip interconnects the rim piece and the ring part in an axially-disposed apart manner when opposing outer side edges of the symbol strip are attached to and between the rim piece and the ring part, the ring part forming an unobstructed circular opening into an empty cylindrical cavity defined by the rim assembly, the ring part and the symbol strip when interconnected together.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the annular body is formed in white color.

8. (Original) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein the annular body is formed of polycarbonate.

9. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~each annular body defines a generally hollow cylindrical internal cavity and the at least one light source is a plurality of light sources, each light source is~~ configured to illuminate the symbols from directly behind each symbol strip, each light source being disposed within the ~~generally hollow empty~~ cylindrical internal cavity.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the transmitted light, which is transmitted from the light source through the transparent/semi-transparent reels, illuminates a portion of the liquid crystal display panel where the liquid crystal display panel opposes the reels.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 3, wherein

the reflected light, which is reflected by the reels, illuminates a portion of the

liquid crystal display panel where the liquid crystal display panel opposes the reels.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a pair of fluorescent lamps disposed apart from one another in a parallel manner such that light from the illuminated symbols radiates between the pair of fluorescent lamps, the pair of fluorescent lamps being disposed in between the LCD panel and the plurality of annular bodies.

17. (Canceled)